

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/767,943

REMARKS

Claims 45-51, 53-66, 68, 69, 71-87, 95-98, and 102 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 45-51, 53-66, 68, 69 and 102 in the Advisory Action.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that claims 70-72 and 80-87 remain rejected. Applicants have deleted claim 70, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 71, 72 and 80-87, after the present amendment, depend (directly or indirectly) on claim 73, a claim that the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, the only outstanding rejection, the rejection of claims 70-72 and 80-87 is moot.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that claims 73-79 are "objected to". It appears that the Examiner's position is that claims 73-79 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Applicants have amended claim 73 to place it in independent form. Claims 74-79 depend on amended claim 73. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 71-79 are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to claims 73-79.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner did not mention claims 95-98. Claims 95 and 96 depend from allowed claim 45 and claims 97-98 depend from allowed

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claim 65. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 95-98 are allowable.

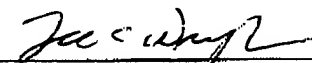
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the instant Amendment in Serial No. 09/767,943 was forwarded by facsimile to Examiner Elli Peselev at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office today, January 21, 2003, at the facsimile number 703-308-4556.



Lee C. Wright